



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 3265, HARRISBURG, PA 171053265

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IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO OUR FILE

July 17, 1998

Maglie R. Salas, Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: CC Docket 98-67: Telecommunications Relay Service and
Speech to Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing
and Speech Disabilities

Dear Ms. Salas:

Enclosed for filing are an original and four copies of the comments on behalf of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission regarding the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the above-referenced matter. I have also enclosed a copy to be time stamped and returned to me in the stamped self-addressed envelope. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Wayne T. Scott
Assistant Counsel
(717) 783-6150

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Pursuant to FCC Notice of Proposed Rulemaking released on May 20, 1998, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Pa. P.U.C.) submits these comments on the proposed rulemaking in the matter of Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech to Speech Service for Individuals With Hearing and Speech Disabilities. The Pa. P.U.C. incorporates the comments of other parties to this proceeding to the extent that they are consistent with the comments and positions of the Pa. P.U.C.

II. THE PENNSYLVANIA POSITION

1. The Pa. P.U.C. supports the continued promotion of access to Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS) for persons with hearing and speech disabilities who otherwise would have **difficulty** in fully participating in our advancing technology in telecommunications and information systems. The Pa. P.U.C. believes that it is important to make telephone calls made to TRS centers more functionally equivalent to the voice telecommunications network.

2. The PA. P.U.C. supports other equally important provisions of this proposed rulemaking. It is the opinion of the Pa. PUC that this rulemaking will generally increase the effectiveness of TRS and aide in attaining the goals anticipated by the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA).

3. The Pa. P.U.C. is submitting this comment in support of that view. The Pa. P.U.C. also plans to file reply comments addressing these comments and the Pa. PUC position, as well as the position and comments of other commenting parties in subsequent filings,

Respectfully submitted,



Wayne T. Scott
Assistant Counsel

Frank Wilmarth
Deputy Chief Counsel

Bohdan R. Pankiw
Chief Counsel

Counsel for Pennsylvania Public Utility
Commission

P.O. Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17 105-3265
(717) 783-6150

Dated: July 17, 1998